

FILED IN UNITED STATES DISTRICT  
COURT, DISTRICT OF UTAH

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D. MARK JONES, CLERK  
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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHELLE JO WALKER,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:16CR651CW

STATEMENT BY DEFENDANT IN  
ADVANCE OF PLEA OF GUILTY  
AND PLEA AGREEMENT

Judge Clark Waddoups

I hereby acknowledge and certify that I have been advised of and that I understand the following facts and rights, and that I have had the assistance of counsel in reviewing, explaining, and entering into this agreement:

1. As part of this agreement with the United States, I intend to plead guilty to Count I of the Misdemeanor Information. My attorney has explained the nature of the charges against me, and I have had an opportunity to discuss the nature of the charges with my attorney. I understand the charges and what the government is required to prove in order to convict me. The elements of Count I, ~~offering to sell~~ <sup>Possessing</sup> a migratory bird are:

- A. I, Michelle Jo Walker,
- B. Knowingly possessed a migratory bird listed in 50 C.F.R. § 10.13,
- C. Without permission from the Secretary of the Interior.

2. I know that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for Count I of the Misdemeanor Information, a violation of 16 U.S.C. § 707(a), is a term of imprisonment of up to six months and/or a fine of \$15,000 and any applicable forfeiture.

a. Additionally, I know the Court is required to impose an assessment in the amount of \$25 for each offense of conviction, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013.

b. I understand that, if I am not a United States citizen, I may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

3. I know that the sentencing procedures in this case and the ultimate sentence will be determined pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), and that the Court must consider, but is not bound by, the United States Sentencing Guidelines, in determining my sentence. I have discussed these procedures with my attorney. I also know that the final calculation of my sentence by the Court may differ from any calculation the United States, my attorney, or I may have made, and I will not be able to withdraw my plea if this occurs.

4. I know that I can be represented by an attorney at every stage of the proceeding, and I know that if I cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed to represent me.

5. I know that I have a right to plead "Not Guilty" or maintain my earlier plea of "Not Guilty" and can have a trial on the charges against me.

6. I know that I have a right to a trial by jury, and I know that if I stand trial by a jury:

a. I have a right to the assistance of counsel at every stage of the proceeding.

b. I have a right to see and observe the witnesses who testify against me.

c. My attorney can cross-examine all witnesses who testify against me.

d. I can call witnesses to testify at trial, and I can obtain subpoenas to require the attendance and testimony of those witnesses. If I cannot afford to pay for the appearance of a witness and mileage fees, the government will pay them.

e. I cannot be forced to incriminate myself, and I do not have to testify at any trial.

f. If I do not want to testify, the jury will be told that no inference adverse to me may be drawn from my election not to testify.

g. The government must prove each and every element of the offense charged against me beyond a reasonable doubt.

h. It requires a unanimous verdict of a jury to convict me.

i. If I were to be convicted, I could appeal, and if I could not afford to appeal, the government would pay the costs of the appeal, including the services of appointed counsel.

7. If I plead guilty, I will not have a trial of any kind.

8. I know that 18 U.S.C. § 3742(a) sets forth the circumstances under which I may appeal my sentence. However, fully understanding my right to appeal my sentence, and in consideration of the concessions and/or commitments made by the United States in this plea agreement, I knowingly, voluntarily and expressly waive my right to appeal as set forth in paragraph 12 below.

9. I know that 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b) sets forth the circumstances under which the United States may appeal my sentence.

10. I know that under a plea of guilty the judge may ask me questions under oath about the offense. The questions, if asked on the record and in the presence of counsel, must be answered truthfully and, if I give false answers, I can be prosecuted for perjury.

11. I stipulate and agree that the following facts accurately describe my conduct. These facts provide a basis for the Court to accept my guilty plea:

I ran a business on etsy.com in which I sold antique taxidermy owls. The taxidermy owls that I sold pre-dated the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and, therefore, I believed that my sales were legal. I was unaware that it was a felony under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to sell migratory birds, even those that pre-dated CITES. Consequently, on November 25, 2012, I possessed a taxidermy barn owl for the purpose of selling it. On September 20, 2012, I possessed a taxidermy barn owl and a taxidermy long-eared owl for the purpose of selling them. On September 17, 2012, I possessed another taxidermy barn owl for the purpose of selling it. On August 10, 2012, I possessed a taxidermy long-eared owl for the purpose of selling it. On May 26, 2012, I possessed another taxidermy barn owl for the purpose of selling it. I agree that all of these owls are listed by the Secretary of the Interior as migratory birds under 50 C.F.R. § 10.13. I did not have permission from the Secretary of the Interior to possess any of these owls.

12. The only terms and conditions pertaining to this plea agreement between me and the United States are as follows:

a. **Guilty Plea.** I will plead guilty to Count I of the Misdemeanor Information.

b. **Relevant Conduct.** I understand and agree that the Presentence Report may include descriptions of conduct I engaged in which either was not charged against

me, will not be pleaded to by me, or both. I understand and agree that the Court may take these facts into consideration in sentencing.

c. **Non-prosecution Agreement:** The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Utah agrees not to prosecute Walker for selling migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act for any sales during calendar years 2011-2013.

d. **Recommendation of Sentence:** The United States and Defendant jointly recommend a sentence of probation and leave any determination of a fine to the Court.

e. **Appeal Waiver.**

(1) Fully understanding my limited right to appeal my sentence, as explained above in paragraph 8, and in consideration of the concessions and/or commitments made by the United States in this plea agreement, I knowingly, voluntarily, and expressly waive my right to appeal any sentence imposed upon me, and the manner in which the sentence is determined, on any of the grounds set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or on any ground whatever, except I do not waive my right to appeal (1) a sentence above the maximum penalty provided in the statute of conviction as set forth in paragraph 2 above; and (2) a sentence above the high-end of the guideline range as determined by the district court at sentencing, or, in the event that no such determination is made by the district court, a sentence above the high-end of the guideline range as set forth in the final presentence report.

(2) I also knowingly, voluntarily, and expressly waive my right to challenge my sentence, and the manner in which the sentence is determined, in any collateral review motion, writ or other procedure, including but not limited to a motion brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, except on the issue of ineffective assistance of counsel.

(3) I understand that this waiver of my appeal and collateral review rights concerning my sentence shall not affect the government's right to appeal my sentence pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b). However, I understand that the United States agrees that if it appeals my sentence, I am released from my waiver.

(4) I further understand and agree that the word "sentence" appearing throughout this waiver provision is being used broadly and applies to all aspects of the Court's sentencing authority, including, but not limited to: (1) sentencing determinations; (2) the imposition of imprisonment, fines, supervised release, probation, and any specific terms and conditions thereof; and (3) any orders of restitution.

f. **Presentence Report and Financial Information.** I agree to provide truthful and complete information, including financial information, as requested by the probation office for the preparation of my presentence report and for determination of the conditions of my supervised release. I also consent to allowing the United States

Attorney's Office to run a credit check on me. I consent to being placed on the Treasury Offset Program and State Finder.

13. I understand and agree that this plea agreement is solely between me and the United States Attorney for the District of Utah and does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

14. I understand that I have a right to ask the Court any questions I wish to ask concerning my rights about these proceedings and the plea.

\* \* \* \*

I make the following representations to the Court:

1. I am 41 years of age. My education consists of Bachelor Fin Arts  
I can [can/cannot] read and understand English.

2. This Statement in Advance contains all terms of the agreements between me and the government; if there are exceptions, the Court will be specifically advised, on the record, at the time of my guilty plea of the additional terms. I understand the government and I cannot have terms of this plea agreements that are not disclosed to the Court.

3. No one has made threats, promises, or representations to me that have caused me to plead guilty, other than the provisions set forth in this agreement.

4. Neither my attorney nor the government has promised me that I would receive probation or any other form of leniency because of my plea.

5. I have discussed this case and this plea with my lawyer as much as I wish, and I have no additional questions.

6. I am satisfied with my lawyer.

7. My decision to enter this plea was made after full and careful thought; with the advice of counsel; and with a full understanding of my rights, the facts and circumstances of the case and the consequences of the plea. I was not under the influence of any drugs, medication, or intoxicants when I made the decision to enter the plea, and I am not now under the influence of any drugs, medication, or intoxicants.

8. I have no mental reservations concerning the plea.


9. I understand and agree to all of the above. I know that I am free to change or delete anything contained in this statement. I do not wish to make changes to this agreement because I agree with the terms and all of the statements are correct.

DATED this 3d day of February 2017.

  
MICHELE JO WALKER  
Defendant

I certify that I have discussed this plea agreement with the defendant, that I have fully explained her rights to her, and that I have assisted her in completing this written agreement. I believe that she is knowingly and voluntarily entering the plea with full knowledge of her legal rights and that there is a factual basis for the plea.

DATED this 3d day of February 2017.

  
ROBERT HUNT  
Attorney for Defendant

I represent that all terms of the plea agreement between the defendant and the government have been, or will be at the plea hearing, disclosed to the Court, and there are no undisclosed agreements between the defendant and the United States.

DATED this 3d day of February 2017.

JOHN W. HUBER  
United States Attorney

  
JARED C. BENNETT  
Assistant United States Attorney